

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CG-00 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 105600

R 291425Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4672

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 1916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GW

SUBJECT: REACTION TO U.S. ALERT AND BREMERHAVEN SHIP LOADINGS

1. SUMMARY. BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PRIVATELY PROTESTED NOT BEING GIVEN ADVANCE WARNING U.S. PLACING TROOPS IN BAVARIA ON ALERT, EXPRESSING FEAR THIS WOULD SPUR LEFT-WING CRITICISM OF U.S. REACTIONS IN PRESS AND BY PUBLIC FIGURES HAVE BEEN MIXED, RESTRAINED, AND REFLECTIVE OF FEELING THAT GERMANY HAS CONFLICTING INTERESTS IN MID-EAST QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AFN NEWS BROADCASTS OCTOBER 25 CONCERNING ALERT BROUGHT INQUIRIES FROM BAVARIAN STATE CHANCERY TO U.S. FORCES LIAISON OFFICER AND TO USAREUR, BOTH OF WHOM HAD TO REPLY WITH "NO COMMENT." STATE CHANCERY OFFICIAL CALLED USFLO TO CHANCERY OCTOBER 26 TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRETS U.S. ARMY HAD NOT GIVEN CHANCERY ADVANCE NOTICE AND THAT THEY HAD LEARNED OF ALERT FROM MEDIA.

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OFFICIAL STATED THAT MINISTER PRESIDENT HAD MADE SEVERAL

CALLS FROM TURKEY TO ASCERTAIN FACTS AND CHANCERY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO RESPOND. HE ADDED THAT U.S. COULD EXPECT CRITICISM FROM LEFT WING PRESS ON ITS FAILURE TO KEEP ITS ALLY INFORMED.

3. PUBLIC REACTIONS HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED, THOUGH MIXED, TO REFLECT SPEAKER'S PLACE IN POLITICAL SPECTRUM:

A. LOCAL CSU OFFICIALS HAVE HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON SUBJECT TO DATE. FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS IN SPEECH AT BAD WIESSEE FRIDAY NIGHT COMMENTED ONLY THAT MIDDLE EAST ACTIONS OF TWO BIG POWERS SHOW THAT THEY DO PRETTY MUCH WHAT THEY WANT. "U.S. PRETENDED TO CONSULT WITH US." STRAUSS AVOIDED ANY COMMENT ON BREMERHAVEN LOADING, HOWEVER.

B. SPD LEFT WINGERS SUCH AS MUNICH CHAIRMAN SCHOEFBERGER INDICATED ACTION TO STOP LOADING ISRAELI FREIGHTERS JUSTIFIED. GENERALLY OTHER SPD MEMBERS TENDED TO SUPPORT ISRAEL. ONE OFFICIAL COMMENTED IT FOOLISH THAT U.S. FLAG WAS NOT FLOWN SO AS TO AVOID SUCH BLATANT INVOLVEMENT OF FED REP IN MATTER.

4. THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE OUTRIGHT PRESS REACTION TO ALERT AND SHIP LOADINGS. TWO CSU-ORIENTED NEWSPAPER WHICH DID COMMENT DIRECTLY, AUGSBERGER ALLGEMEINE AND NURENBERGER NACHTRICHTEN, SUPPORTED LOADING OF SHIPS. ALLGEMEINE OCTOBER 27 QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WISE TO PROTEST LOADING OR TO SEND ONE VESSEL HOME EMPTY. IN FORMER YEARS U.S. LOADED CARGO (LEBANON CRISIS) AND PROTEST REGISTERED, BUT NOT PUBLICLY. NACHTRICHTEN OCTOBER 27 IN LONGWINDED EDITORIAL EXPRESSED VIEW GERMANY IS ALLIED WITH U.S.; IT CANNOT BE NEUTRAL IN MATTERS WHERE U.S. IS INVOLVED AND IT SHOULD SUPPORT ITS ALLY IN CURRENT SITUATION.

5. POLITICAL FIGURES CONSULAR PERSONNEL HAVE TALKED WITH (INCLUDING AT BAD WIESSEE CSU MEETING) ALL CHOSE TO AVOID COMMENT ON U.S. ACTIONS RE MID-EAST. THIS SEEMED TO BE LARGELY RESULT OF MIXED FEELINGS ON THEIR PART: BELIEF FRG HAS BEEN RIGHT IN SEEKING TO PRESERVE ITS STRICT NEUTRALITY CONFLICTING WITH BALANCE OF SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL AND WITH RATHER DEEP CONCERN, PARTICULARLY IN CSU CIRCLES, OVER STRAIN ISSUE HAS PLACED ON U.S.-GERMAN RELATIONS. LATTER CONCERN ORIGINALLY STEMMED LARGELY FROM FEAR OF GIVING AMMUNITION TO THOSE IN GERMANY CRITICAL OF U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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IT WILL PRESUMABLY GROW AS RESULT OF U.S. REACTIONS, SUCH AS TALK OF REEXAMINATION OF ROLE OF U.S. MILITARY HERE, AND RENEWED PRESSURES FOR TROOP AND MATERIAL REDUCTIONS. VALDES

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